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Regarding: HOUSE BILL 1377 - A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to immunization exemptions.

Dear Committee Members,

To begin I'd like to tell a short story about my perspective as a North Dakota transplant. As you read this it may seem like I've forgotten that I am writing a testimony in support of a bill related to vaccine exemptions, but please hang in there till the end and you will see where I am going with this. Thank you.

I grew up in New York and have lived in handful of states, including Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, as well as in Calgary, Canada before settling in North Dakota in September of 2000. I've reared three children here, one who is now a 19 year-old college graduate, and two teens whom I am homeschooling. My children were born in Jamestown and we moved to Bismarck in 2016. We chose the Capitol city because of the abundance of opportunity that we saw here - an affordable college, plenty of jobs, lovely parks, ample shopping, all within a small-town, friendly community. The quality of life we've experienced in Bismarck, and in North Dakota as a whole has been good. We have amazing friends, a fantastic hometown college, a comfortable home, ample work opportunities, and good old fashioned midwestern values. Overall, I have been pleased to call myself a North Dakotan these last twenties years, and until recently I've never considered leaving the state for any reason other than to be closer to my family in New York.

A few years ago I remember reading about a contest of sorts to come up with a new logo for the state of North Dakota. An idea came to me immediately, and I'd like to share my idea and why it occurred to me. Back in 2011 or so I was talking to a good friend of mine about the changes the Oil Boom was bringing to our state. My friend is a North Dakota native so his perspective comes with much more experience than mine. What he said that day is something I have never forgotten. He simply said, "The secret is out!" I remember a swell of emotions when I heard that. I felt proud to live in such a wonderful place. I felt grateful that I had chosen North Dakota as the place to rear my children. But I also felt a sting of fear - what if the influx of so many new people would end up changing our state - what if ND changed so much I would no longer be happy here? And change it did, but I still feel safe and happy to be here.

Now getting back to my idea for a North Dakota logo. My idea was profoundly simple but compelling. Here it is: *The SECRET is out... NORTH DAKOTA!* I smile inside every time I think of this. I smile because I love North Dakota and I smile because I remember what drew me here. I wondered what out-of-staters would think when they drive across out state line and saw: *The SECRET is out... North Dakota!* I'm guessing they would ask themselves, what secret? I am certain that those seeking what I was seeking when I moved here would have a sense of what it means without even asking anyone. So what is the "secret?" The secret is that North Dakota offers what most human beings, and especially families, crave and need. North Dakota offers safety. We have low crime rates, few if any poisonous species, no earthquakes, hurricanes, or mudslides. If you are not out on the Interstate during a blizzard, you don't have much to fear in North Dakota. What else does North Dakota have that people want? We have economic growth and low employment. If you want to work and are able to work, you can find a job in North Dakota. North Dakota has plenty of space for rural living, and recreation, but also offers several larger cities, technology, and opportunities for those who crave a faster

pace of life.

For a good long time, North Dakota was drawing newcomers. Today the states that are drawing the "weary masses" are Florida, and South Dakota. Why is that? The reason people are leaving states such as New York and California and fleeing to states like South Dakota and Florida is because as much as people need and long for safety from crime, ample economic opportunities, open spaces for play and recreation, and so much more that our state has to offer, what they seek and need most is something that many of us have taken for granted most of our lives. Freedom. We are fortunate and have taken for granted the privilege it is to live in a free country. But things are changing and people are sensing that freedom is dying in this country, and of all the freedoms people cherish and should be entitled to by God first and by their government next, is the freedom to **body autonomy**, including the right to receive or reject the injection of vaccines for any reasons including employment, school attendance, or state licensure. People in states with oppressive governments are weary and scared, and they are fleeing to states that offer health freedom.

Prior to Covid-19 and all the mandates for masks and now the constant talk about vaccine passports and certain employers requiring the Covid vaccine, I never worried about the possibility of being forced to take a vaccine. I have not received a vaccine since 2001, and if I had had adequate information about vaccines at that time, I would not have received that one.

I am very fearful about losing my right to decide for myself if a vaccine is safe for my body. I have severe asthma and I have chosen up to this time to avoid vaccines because they made my mother so sick and because the one time I did get a flu vaccine in my adult life, I became very sick. Also, it is quite likely that I have the MTHFR genetic mutation that runs in my family which means I am at high risk of developing serious adverse reactions and even life long debilitating diseases or conditions if I take a vaccine.

I am even more concerned about my children one day being forced to take vaccines in order to work, attend school, or be licensed in the state of North Dakota. That is not freedom. That is medical tyranny. And that is why people South Dakota and Florida are becoming the new homes of the "free and the brave."

I cherish my right as an American to choose what goes into my body and what is done to my body by the medical community, and I hope and pray and I implore you to make sure that my children and grandchildren and all future generations in the state of North Dakota continue to have the right to health freedom for themselves and their children.

Please **do pass HB 1468**. Your decision could make North Dakota a beacon of freedom for the worn out, stressed out, frightened masses who are fleeing from oppressive control and forced vaccinations in other states. Or your decision could add North Dakota to the list of states from which to flee.

Sincerely,

Christine Miller

